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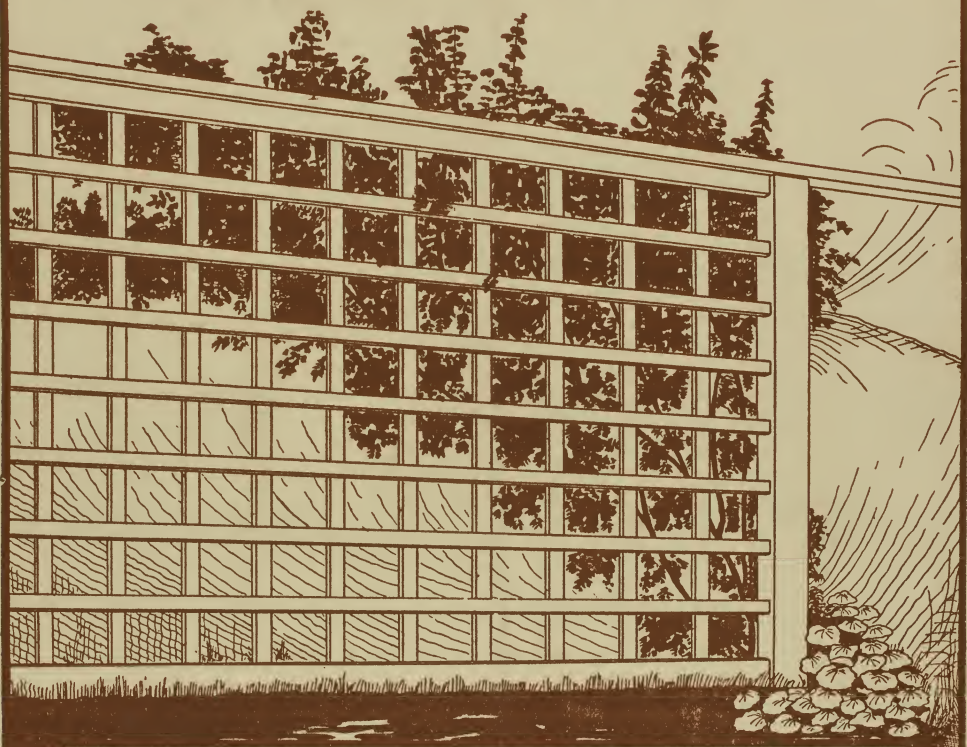
California Garden



IN THIS NUMBER

SAN DIEGO CANYON GARDENS
NEW ZEALAND LANDSCAPE
SUCCULENTS, BY HARRY JOHNSON
SWEET PEAS
ROSES

FEB. 1925 TEN CENTS

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One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

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GARDEN GLIMPSES (No. 2)

By Pearl LaForce Mayer.

I've always thought that there could be great delights in canyon gardens and now I know it. Not long ago I heard of a certain garden in the mouth of a canyon which leads down to the bay. A little later I happened to meet the owner of the garden at his place of business and he gave me one of those nice friendly invitations to visit his garden at any time—just walk right in and make myself at home, you know. So late one afternoon I set out to see the one garden but unexpectedly saw two.

I had understood, or rather misunderstood, the gentleman to say that his garden was the first one in the canyon, so upon coming to the first garden I walked right in under a rose covered pergola, past a charming sun dial, several old Japanese stone lanterns and made myself at home.

It was a dear little garden of winding paths between flower beds and trees and shrubs, with really well made cobblestone walls where the uneven canyon side made them necessary. There were great clumps of pampas grass and tropical cane and bamboo scattered about the garden giving it privacy and a picturesque setting. It was a place beloved of birds and the whole canyon was filled with the sweet fluting trills of dozens of little songsters as they fluttered about from bamboos to cedars and settled down for the evening .

Just as I stopped to admire some large fat goldfish in a beautiful pool under an artistic pergola a sweet faced lady came out upon the porch of the little brown bungalow. I introduced myself and told her about the gentleman having told me to make myself at home in his garden. She smiled and told me I had the wrong garden, but that she would be delighted to have me visit her garden.

It seemed that I had taken the path to the right insttead of to the left, but I was very glad that I had made the mistake for by so doing I met another garden lover and saw two gardens instead of one. Any way most of our mistakes can be turned into blessings if we but will it so.

There were several varieties of acacia trees in the garden and one of them, the acacia Baileyana was itself a plumy yellow bouquet. There were daffodils in bloom and an early peach tree was a mass of deep pink blossoms. Along the little arroya which drained the canyon were planted tall eucalyptus trees, cedars and gracefully bending shrubs such as leptospernum. This small arroya which I suppose is filled with running water in the rainy season, is crossed by a small wooden bridge between the tall trees.

The garden paths were bordered with lobelia and little rough places of the garden hillsides were covered with that kindly gray green California plant the mesembryanthemum, which creeps and crawls or obligingly falls down over walls and banks and covers a multitude of sins, or when in bloom makes the most gorgeous lavender velvet carpet ever woven on Nature's loom.

There were ferns about the garden on the north side where ferns love to grow and the lady told me that on this side she planted her blue, violet, pink and white flowers while on the lower south side she had the reds and yellows.

The lady of the garden led me up a path to a porch which was cozy with a lounge and chairs. Here she said she could spend hours looking on up past her flower beds and pergola and trees to where the clouds rolled high above the canyon walls in day time or where mist and moon made it a place of dreams at night. I could well see that this was a garden where the owner could putter about to heart's content or linger and dream the hours away.

Just then I saw coming along the path across the canyon the gentleman whose garden I had originally set out to find. I called to him and he came across the little wooden bridge over the arroya while we explained my mistake. Then we three discussed various plants and flowers for awhile. I mentioned how much I appreciated their canyon full of singing birds. The two neighbors then told me about a miserable black hearted butcher bird who had arrived in their secluded canyon last summer and made life a

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tragedy for the sweet little songsters of the glen. They began to lay plans whereby they might make it unpleasant for him if he appears upon the scene of action this year. If that butcher bird knew what I know he surely would known enuogh to stay away from that canyon this summer vacation, for some bird about his size is going to be exterminated.

Before I left, the lady of the garden presented me with a lovely sweet smelly bunch of violets, wisteria, freezias and for-get-me-nots. Then I crossed the little bridge and went up the left side of the canyon with the gentleman to seee his garden.

The path led through a long lath house which he said had been in use and full of flowers some time ago, but was not used at present. Then we came out on a terrace where there were eleven large gold fish pools with all different sized goldfish in them, from babies up to large mature ones. This gardener has been very successful in raising gold fish and hopes some day to have a very large place for them. The pools were well planted with submerged water plants and water lillies raised white flowers above the surface. This was the sweet scented water hawthorn and is especially suited for pools here as it blosssoms all the year around.

The garden was terraced with beautifully laid cobblestone walls. In a well sheltered nook was a clump of banana trees and here were four large stalks of bananas almost ripe. There was a broad leafed rice paper plant and a most attractive sort of calladium from Panama. Then in a shady nook was one of the largest Australian tree ferns I have ever seen. I learned that it was but three years old and it is fully tweleve feet in diameter.

Down in the canyon is a clump of bamboo of which they might be proud even in far Japan, for it is fifty-seven feet high and the canes are very large around. Did I own that clump of bamboo in my garden money couldn't buy it. Birds love it. It was alive with them and their late evening song. Yes, bamboo has a charm all its own and when the night winds play through it, it becomes a wind harp of beauty.

There were many trees about the garden, such as pepper trees eucalyptus, loquat, palm and Norfolk Island Pine. This pine I was told will grow from cuttings and the gentleman had many of the young trees about two feet high which he had grown from cuttings.

Across the canyon on some land which the gentleman did not own he had made neat terraces and planted eucalyptus trees and near the top had built a lovely pergola—"just to take the curse off of the bare ground", so he told me. He had done this about tweleve years ago so that he has been enjoying the

Continued on Page 14

A NEW ZEALAND ESTATE

It is difficult to write of the lovely gardens that grow down under the Southern Cross, words seem so inadequate in describing them, their masses of color and variety of form of the various growths.

Everything that grows in English gardens will grown so much better in New Zealand, for here there is more sunshine and the plants are not subjected to severe frosts. Families which in other countries are represented as plants, are here shrubs and trees.

Much of the flora of New Zealand can be succesfully grown in the open air in California.

I have in mind a beautiful estate of three hundred acres, which I visited down at the end of the South Island. It is surrounded by a belt of native "bush", which in New Zealand is the name given to the forest. This estate is entered through a long avenue of native trees, and plants that face the larger forest growths. Ferns in great variety, from the stately tree fern to varieties only a few inches high, wild native shrubs and clumps of Phormium tenax. Further back in the bush are the totara, red pine (Dacrydium cupressium) red and black beech (Northofagus fusca and N. solanderi) the yellow pine (Dacrydium biforme) and that tree of such striking contrast to most trees, or shrubs, the Inuka or Grasstree (Dracophyllum longifolium). The upright close branches are for the greater part leafless, the long vertical needle-like leaves being confined to the extremities. D. arboreum is very similar, but bears both the adult and much broader juvenile leaves at the same time. This piece of bush was a typical southern taxad forest. In New Zealand the conifers are related not to the pines but to the yews.

There is a wealth of strong climbing plants that form great ropes and close entanglements in the bush, and this one was no exception. Here was the Bush Lawyer (Rubus australis) its stems are very strong and thick, and it is perhaps the tallest of New Zealand climbing plants, reaching a height of fifty feet. It climbs not by tendrils or twining but by means of claws hooked backward as those of the cat family, and arranged at short intervals along the stems and at the back of the midrib of the leaves, these cling to everything they touch. The flower heads form large bunches, sometimes twelve or eighteen inches in length, the fruit is a small blackberry, but orange red in color.

This beautiful forest was a bird sanctuary and we could hear the clear notes of the Tui, and Bell bird echoing through the trees.

As we left the avenue we came into the open and walked between lawns and shrubberies. The brush formed a most attractive background on three sides for the picture that now spread borders and beds of native and imported shrubs and plants. The herbaceous border is the glory of New Zealand gardens just as it is those of England.

The cabbage tree (Cordyline australis) and the flax (Phornium tenax) were in evidence. One always associates them with a New Zealand garden and they fit into the landscape.

One of the shrubberies bordering the bush was planted with Veronicas; they are extensively used in gardening in the Dominion. The genus in New Zealand contains at least a hundred distinct species, from low growing mats, suitable for rock gardens, whipcords, for small spaces—up through various heights to tall shrubs fifteen feet high. One of the most beautiful of the genus is V. Benthami, it does not occur on the mainland but is an inhabitant of the outlying islands.

I will describe a few of the combinations in the borders and beds. One of the most beautiful spring flowering trees in the garden was the kowkai Sophora grandiflora it invariably grows in its wild state so that it can tower above all other shrubs immediately surrounding it, and thus present the whole of its golden yellow flowers to the light. A ground cover of yellow narcissus was used under this tree, and as both were in flower at the same time the effect was beautiful.

The manuka Leptospermum scoparium with its heath-like foliage and pinkish flowers bloom in such profusion that the leaves are almost hidden; filled the center of a large bed, surrounded by an eighteen inch border of yellow violas. The crimson form of L. scoparium, known as L. Nichollsii, is one of the finest garden shrubs, and here it was growing to perfection—with its rich crimson flowers and dark green foliage, yellow primroses, primula vulgaris were used as an edging around the border. Manuka is the name the Maoris give this plant.

The ribbonwood Gaya Lyallii is probably the most graceful of New Zealand flowering trees. The flowers are in larger clusters, larger than cherry blossoms—leaves are three to four inches in length and hang most gracefully. The bark is very tough—both G. Lyalli and G. ribifolia may be grown from cuttings. They are good drought resisters and the foliage in Autumn colors beautifully. There were long beds of the polyanth primrose in full bloom, and the beautiful blue variety of Primula Vulgaris. Thousands of Narcissus were naturalized in the grass and along banks of the stream that went through the grounds. Narcissus White Queen with its long trumpet was particularly fine.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

A bed of Clianthus punicans, the red parrot bill, as grown in New Zealand, is a very showy shrub, and attains a height of six to eight feet—yellow ranunculus formed the middle growth around this shrub, with a border of scarlet anemones. In the rose garden were long borders with high rustic fences at the back of them covered with the canes of climbing roses, in front of these were bush roses three rows deep and in between each plants of wallflowers in gorgeous bloom. The whole bordered with purple violas, a foot wide, the plants set close together.

Auriculas were grown here in great perfection. The gardens in spring are a joyous sight with the bulbous stock all in flower. The people as a whole are garden enthusiasts, spending hours in working among their plants.

ELIZABETH HAMILTON FAIRLEY.

SWEET PEAS

We hope that members growing sweet peas will strive to exhibit at the Spring Flower Show in April, 25th and 26th.

Keep sweet peas well watered and cultivated. About March begin to give them a solution of one tablespoonful of household ammonia in every three quarts of water—apply near roots. The writer gave this when about three feet high and applied it every three weeks. The vines reached eleven feet high, bloomed profusely, gave long sturdy stems, bore three and four blossoms on a stem—and took three first prizes in flower shows that year. The seeds were only ten cents per packet, too! Then came a strong wind and blew vines down—but with care were tied back. This happened before the Flower Shows.

See that your vines are trained to wires, or whatever the supports are, away from the prevailing winds.

Now is a good time to sow sweet peas for summer blooming.

In "The Garden Beautiful" last year, there was a good article how to raise sweet peas. They must have three good things—good depth of soil, cool roots, and plenty of water. Here are some pointers for those who will be sowing for the summer: Dig a trench eighteen inches deep and fill in a six inch layer of well rotted manure, tramped down hard. On top of this put a six inch layer of earth that was taken out in making the trench, and tramping it down as it is shoveled back. The firmer this part of the trench is the better. It will give the roots a firm bed to live in and make them stronger for the trouble they will have in growing down into it. Plant the seeds three inches apart and put three inches of soil on them. Water well and cultivate to keep moisture in ground. When the vine appears above the surface, rake down the rest of the soil gradually, always keeping the top of the vine in sight. When the vine has grown so high that the raked-in earth has reached the level of the earth about it, see that level culture is given. If it is hilled the row will shed water and the vines will suffer from the heat. Water the vines twice a week; soak them well and keep on cultivating. Keep the flowers picked closely if you wish a long season of bloom. Be sure and cut whole length of stem so that the next shoot may sprout out easily, and give another long stem in due time.—From the Sweet Pea Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs and Miss Edith Gait.

Bring your bulb flowers to Floral Home, Balboa Park, March 17th.

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The Feb. & Mar. Gardens

FLOWER GARDEN

Mary A. Matthews.

Probably the most important thing this month and next will be to practice conservation both in planting and use of water, while we should use all the water we can, or rather all our pocket books will allow. We should try to plant in not too large quantities those things that will grow with a moderate amount of moisture and do not forget that cultivating the soil after watering is half the battle. Amongst those things that can grow to perfection with a fair amount of water are Marigolds of all sorts, also calendulas, Snapdrogons, if given frequent tilling of the soil, they are much more prone to rust where much water is given, where the rust does appear on a plant pull it up and burn at once, this is the only way to save your whole planting. Snapdragons have sprung into wonderful popularity of late, both in the home gardens and with the Florists. Some even claiming they fill the place of Gladiolus with not nearly the expense. Glads, too, can be grown during a dry season with proper care—and there are some wonderful ones to be had at a moderate price that will go a long way towards making our gardens gay. Petunias, Phlox Drummondi, will also help. Amongst numerous things blooming in the gardens now are Nemesias, these are a comparitavely new thing, are a most beautiful bedding plant, coming in all the shades of crimson, orange, and yellow, growing about a foot or more high. Several sowings can be made during the spring to keep up the supply. We should study conditions with us and grow those things that will give best results. Miss Sessions told me that in a letter to Mr. David Fairchild in regards to permit for bringing cacti and other succulents in, in case she could not get seeds, that she told him if we continued to have these dry winters, our gardens would have to depend mainly on such things for ornaments. For several seasons now I have planted Narcissus, in sorts and not disturbed them by lifting. This winter and spring they are giving me a wonderful amount of bloom, springing up everywhere in unexpected places and blooming mostly with good, long stems, which goes to show they can stand dry weather.

Bulb Show. March 17th, Floral Home, Balboa Park.

THE VEGETABLE AND FLOWER GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

At this writing the promised rains have not materialized, so the first requisite for success in either the vegetable or flower garden is to make sure that your ground is well soaked to a depth of at least two or three feet, and the best way to do this is by irrigation in furrows, followed by a thorough cultivation as soon as the soil separates nicely to a depth of at least six or eight inches, provided the ground has been already spaded to a greater depth, otherwise a deep spading followed by a thorough working down of the surface to a good seed bed before seeds or plants are put in. For surface manuring, to be raked into the top soil, a few sacks of Pen Manure, a product of the Cotton Seed Oil Plant of Chula Vista is a valuable fertilizer. It is finely screened, two or three times richer in plant foods than either sheep or cow manure, runs over sixty per cent humus and can be bought at a reasonable price by the sack.

By the end of this month and beginning of March practically all vegetable seeds and plants can go in. Artichokes and asparagus roots are strictly in season, likewise beans, peas and sweet corn. Onions and garlic sets and horseradish roots can also be planted, and beets, carrots, cabbage, seeds and plants, celery, cucumber, lettuce, parsnips, peppers, radish, salsify, squash, spinach, tomatoes and turnips. So you see the list is a long one and gives you plenty of choice.

In sowing seeds remember that many of them are small and should not be sown deep. A good general rule is to plant to a depth of from three to five times the diameter of the seed. Plant plentifully, as by so doing it is easier for the seeds to break through the soil and it is a simple matter to thin out the young plants. In the vegetable garden it is a good plan to make ridges about six inches high and ten inches wide. Sow the seed or transplant on each side of the ridge, leaving a space about twelve inches wide between ridges. Run the water in this space and in this way irrigate two rows with one furrow. By this method you get the water where it does the most good and prevent flooding the plants which is often injurious, particularly in hot weather.

While we have not had rain enough this

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The California Garden

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Mrs. Sidney E. Mayer, Associate Editor
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EDITORIAL

It needs no apology to take up the subject of weather again, but we want to explain that for some reason, most occult, and in spite of our constant asseverations to the contrary, certain folks seem to think we are in a way responsible for its not raining in due season, and suggest that there ought to be a punishment for weather prophecies that don't pan out. Of course this is ridiculous, but it is not the only phase of the weather question that qualifies in that class, and it is easier to think about than Why does it not rain? There is only one court that we can think of as suitable to try failing prophets, and that is the one of the most humane Mikado that ever in Japan existed ,and who sought to make the punishment fit the crime, and also make each prisoner pent unwillingly represent a source of innocent merriment. Suggesting this to some of the complainants has brought forth the following and it is published for its essential justice and more as a solemn warning to weather sharks than a sample of poetry:

The prophet of weather whose prophecies fail
Yet does it again and again
Is made to sit
In a deep dank pit
With nary an outlet or drain.

And there he sits in his bare shirt tail
'Neath drip from a leaky main
With shivering knees
And a constant sneeze
Till Hatfield captures a rain.

If there be a clerk of the weather he gets another laugh at the Floral Association for it has had to fix the date for its Bulb Show all over again, this time for March 17th. In the January magazine it was announced for both March 3rd and 10th, but those who know say that the lack of moisture and the cool nights have retarded everything, hence the change. This gives us the opportunity to say that the Spring show dates are April 25 and 26 and the Civic Auditorium has been engaged. We hope this is an acceptable time to everybody, but doubt it, because that is not human nature, and there is as much of this stuff in the Floral Association as outside it.

When this is printed our only Miss Sessions will have started for Europe, and it shows our attitude of mind, that we are much more concerned for what she may think of Europe than for what it thinks of her, for she is a very fixed and dear quantity with us. The whole community is going with her in spirit, she takes along enough advice to make the League of Nations awake from the dead, and probably with her usual good commonsense will discard most of it before she clears from New York. Our readers are still talking about Mr. Morley's wonderful trip of last year, so interestingly told in these pages, and they will be agog to compare his impressions with those of Miss Sessions. Mr. Morley has before traveled widely and often, so that the other side is almost his side, too, but Miss Sessions, a native daughter, has never been east of the Rockies and everything will be new.

There is a more or less general irritation under the restraint imposed on importation of plants, bulbs and seeds by the regulations of the Government Bureau of Plant Importation, and though we have had a touch of it ourselves we feel it our duty to admit that all these regualtions have been made with the sole object of protecting us against the danger of having to fight new pests and diseases. California can well regret that in the past it lacked stringent immigration laws for plants, it could well spare the foxtail grass and what we call the nutgrass a Cyperus an almost ineradicable pest, these slipped in with many others. Imported insect pests and diseases take an unbelievable toll every year and and millions have been spent in fighting them. We know all forms of government are irksome to some individuals and it seems to be human nature to buck them, but it is not good sense to do so. Further it is a defect inherent in all government by form, that it must hurt individuals while serving the big majority. It is not possible that it shall deal separately with every instance. The Judge

in Israel seems to have been an effort to do this, but then he had divine inspiration and probably no contending lawyers and a library of laws. We were present when one of our judges in passing on a case said both sides are such liars that the truth does not appear, but the law is on the side of the male prevaricator so reluctantly he gets the verdict. Of course the wording of this summing up was much more ornate, but it was evident that the judge's desire was to send them both to jail, where they undoubtedly belonged, but the law stood in the way, although in the average case it was a perfectly good law. We have heard all kinds of arguments against our quarantine plant law, that is all kinds but a good one, if you want to get anything in from abroad find out if you may and how and then do it that way or leave it alone.

It is trying to rain and the Evening Paper has a big scare head saying SAN DIEGO gets the most rain for the storm, all of fourteen hundreds of an inch. We hope we did not hear any one laughing.

It seems only fair after our remarks about weather folks that we should except from their application our worthy official forecaster, who has always shown the modesty of the truly informed; and not to be too discouraging to the rest, we quote Mark Twain on the subject, when he was dealing with a relative and some land that had been in his family: "It is true that he always said of that land—and said it with blazing enthusiasm, too—There's millions in it—millions! It is true that he always said that about everything—and was always mistaken, too, but this time he was right; which shows that a man who goes around with a prophecy gun ought never to get discouraged. If he will keep up his heart and fire at everything he sees, he is bound to hit something by and by." Which suggests that our weather prophets should diversify their sport.

LIBRARY

On the library table will be found this month a little book, Hints on Cacti, published by the old firm of A. Blanc & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.; also "A Manual of Chrysanthemums," from the firm of Elmer & Smith, Adrian, Michigan, the noted "mum" growers of the U. S. The periodicals contain much of interest this month; articles on Dahlias, Gladiolus, excellent ones on the making of Rock Gardens, now so popular, and no one should fail to read the articles by D. W. Coolidge, appearing in "Better Homes and Gardens." "My Forty Years With Plants." This month he writes on the Ericas or Heathers. He says more than five hundred have been catalogued and described from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

BULB SHOW AND REGULAR MEETING

The Bulb Show date has been reset for March 17th, to accommodate the season. It will be held in the Floral Home in Balboa Park. Everyone with specimens, even if only one, is urged to bring them before ten o'clock. The show will be free and open to the public at one. In the evening of the same day the regular meeting will begin at 7:30. Negotiations for the atendance of a local bulb grower on a large scale, who will address the meeting and an authority on Roses will handle that subject. Let us make this a banner occasion. Register the date, March 17th, Tuesday, and the place Floral Home, Balboa Park.

SPEAKER FOR MARCH MEETING

Mr. Mulkey accepts invitation to be present and speak.

In addition to being a very agreeable gentleman, he is a commercial grower of Dahlias, and has been editor of the Bulletin of the Dahlia Society of Southern California for several years. Mr. Mulkey acted as one of the judges at our last Fall Flower Show. He brought down two seedlings with him to that show and displayed them in a tall vase in the center of the Balboa Park table. One, a three-year-old seedling, has since been named Midnight and was awarded the medal for the best three-year-old seedling at the Los Angeles Show last year. The other seedling was awarded first as the best two-year-old. It is hoped that Mr. Mulkey will be greeted by every Dahlia grower of this locality, as he will endeavor to discuss the Dahlia from all angles.

Dates for Annual Spring Flower Show, April 25 and 26.

MARCH WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO

March weather does not differ materially from that of February. There is a gradual increase in temperature from week to week which is most noticeable in the daily minimum. Frost occasionally forms in the more exposed places of the city, but danger from a serious freeze in the citrus districts is over.

In the past 54 years there has not been a March without some rain. As little as 0.02 inch occurred in 1887, however, while in 1883 the fall was 6.23 inches. Rainy weather is usually attended by strong southerly winds that continue for several days at a time.

Cloudiness increases somewhat, and a decrease in the percentage of sunshine naturally follows. The humidity is slightly higher on the average than that during the preceding months of the year.

DEAN BLAKE, Meteorologist.

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Floral Association Meetings

On the afternoon of Tuesday, February 3rd, the members of the association were invited to visit Mrs. Alex Reynolds, Jr., at her Vista Nursery, in National City, and to view her lovely gardens, pools and rockeries. A large number attended the meeting, which was addressed by Miss Sessions and by Miss Elizabeth H. Fairley, who spoke briefly on New Zealand plants. Thanks to Mrs. Reynolds' hospitality, the afternoon was a most pleasant and profitable one for all who were able to attend. Her gardens were very beautiful, and many fine examples of rare plants were seen in splendid condition and in unusual surroundings.

On the following Saturday evening, the seventh, a special meeting had been hurriedly arranged to take advantage of Miss Fairley's kind offer to give a talk on the flora of New Zealand, and to show her beautiful colored slides, taken and colored by her during a recent long visit of exploration to the islands. Miss Fairley is a well-known traveler, botanist and landscape gardener of New York. Her latest field of exploration has been New Zealand, where she spent fifteen months in an intensive study of the flora of those islands, so little known to us in America. Unfortunately for the considerable number who were able to attend at such short notice, something unremediable happened to the electric lighting system, and it was impossible to show the slides. Miss Fairley gave a most interesting talk on the islands and their plant life, a bit of which will be published in the magazine. It is hoped that arrangements can be made for another lecture by her, when she can show us the slides and describe the plants and flowers more fully.

On the evening of Tuesday, February 17th, the regular monthly meeting was held at the Floral Building. The subject was Chrysanthemums and Acacias. Mr. Morley spoke on the propagation of the former. He told us that, while the commonest and easiest method of propagation is by division, it is not the best way, on account of the propensity of the young plant so started to sucker. Better far is to make soft-wood cuttings when the old plants first begin to send up new stalks, these to be planted in sand or the open ground. The cuttings should be allowed to stand in water a half-hour after cutting, before planting, or they are likely to wilt down. The best time to make cuttings is in January, but it may be done in May or even as late as September, for very late blooms.

Chrysanthemums want very good rich soil, with some fertilizer from the beginning, but not too much until the buds begin to set, or there will be no blooms. When the buds are well set, feed it very heavily. Of course, the plants must be carefully disbudded to get blooms, the best blooms coming where only one flower is allowed to the plant, and where the plants are grown under a protection of cheese-cloth. Pompons and singles are now very popular and are exceedingly beautiful in themselves and most useful for decoration. The old-fashioned English Garden Chrysanthemum has also come back into fashion, and is very good.

Mr. Morley also spoke on the Acacias growing in the Park and Miss Sessions on the rarer varieties that are found here. It is not necessary to repeat the long list of acacias which we have in San Diego, or to tell here of their varying characteristics. That is left for a later article. They are, however, one of our very finest and most ornamental plants, perhaps the very best thing that we have growing in the city. They will grow almost anywhere, in the poorest sort of soil, need no fertilizer and little other attention except very heavy pruning immediately after the flowering season is through. Without the prnning they soon get to be lanky, unattractive trees, and, as the wood is brittle, are most likely to be broken down by rain or wind. A score or more desirable varieties were listed, and Mr. Morley announced that Mr. Falconer has brought back from Australia twenty-two new varieties which will be tried out in Balboa Park.

The meeting took the form of a good-bye party for Miss Sessions, who left the following week for a lengthy trip to England, France, Italy and Holland. A brief-case was presented to her, with commands to return with it full of notes and catalogues. Coffee and punch were served and opportunity was given all to express their good wishes to Miss Sessions for a pleasant and profitable journey.

WALTER S. MERRILL, Secy.

NEW BRANCHES FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Public Library is asking for a $60,000 bond issue at the primary election to be held March 24th. This money will provide three new branches. These buildings of the mission type of architecture peculiarly appropriate to Southern California, with courts made attractive by the planting of vines and flowers will be distinct assets to the communities in which they are located as has been provied by the La Jolla Branch. It is hoped that the

members of the Floral Association who are constantly working for the development of beautiful surroundings will take active interest in this phase of library development.

It is proposed to spend $25,000 to purchase a corner lot and construct and furnish an attractive, fire proof building, with a special children's department at Logan Heights, which has the largest circulation of any residence section of the city. At present this bunch is housed in a store building.

$20,000 will provide a similar building for University Heights in place of the little outgrown wooden building on the corner of Howard Street and Park boulevard, where the city owns a lot. This is the second largest branch in the system.

$15,000 will be used to buy a lot and construct a fire proof building for Ocean Beach, which is also housed in a store building at present.

These three branches have completely outgrown their present quarters and no larger space is available for rent in their localities. The money now spent for rent will buy over a thousand books a year which will be apportioned to all parts of the library system so that all readers of the city will be benefited.

Los Angeles has 42 branches, 19 of them in beautifully equipped buildings. San Francisco has 9 branch buildings valued at half a million dollars. Long Beach has three branch buildings valued at $140,000 and has just appropriated $60,000 for two new ones. San Diego, which is the seventh city in area in the United States and therefore particularly in need of branch libraries to bring book and expert library service within a five cent car fare zone of every citizen, has never spent a dollar of city money for library buildings.

The proposition should have the support of all who are interested in civic improvements.

VOTE FOR THE LIBRARY BONDS!

NOTES ON SUCCULENTS NO. 1

By Harry Johnson.

Rochea Falcata

One occasionally sees this old favorite in gardens but its beauty warrants it a place in any sunny corner. Like other members of the Stonecrop family (Crassulaceae) it seems to thrive on neglect asking only to be left alone where year by year the clumps improve. For a month or more the cymes of glowing red flowers attract attention. The heads are some 3 to 4 inches in diameter the individual flowers small but pressed closely together with tiny yellow stamens protruding. These bright brushes terminate each axis. The plant seldom exceeds a foot in height, branching freely at the base but not stooling out. The leaves are sickle-shaped as the specific name indicates, opposite and joined together at their bases arranged edgewise in two ranks so that the plant appears flattened. They are fleshy and harsh to the touch, bluish-green in color from the peculiar covering on the surface. Some of the epidermal cells are swollen above the others into large bladders which meet one another over the whole surface. At first while the leaf is young they are living and filled with water but when the leaf is mature they are dead and full of air whilst their walls are infiltrated with silica. This elaborate arrangement is simply to protect the plant from excessive evaporation the species being native to the dryer regions of South Africa. The plant thrives best in an open well-drained soil with a sunny exposure,repaying a moderate amount of care but resenting coddling. Propagation may be effected by removing the offshoots which already many times have tiny reddish hair-like roots while still attached to the parent. When quicker multiplication is desired the leaves may be cut off close to the plant and inserted in sand, wet thoroughly and then kept on the dry side. Small plants will arise from the base of each leaf.

Dyckia Sulphurea

The prickly rosette of this pretty Bromeliad does not exceed 4 to 5 inches across though the clumps which it forms may reach a foot or perhaps much more. The leaves are stiff and rigid with strong curved barbs some reflexed some pointing outward while the leaf tip is sharply pointed. The young leaves are erect, bending back with age so that the spines point in all directions. This formidable armament must surely serve the plant well for any unwary animal once hooked if it ever succeeded in making its escape would certainly give it wide berth. The leaves are light green in color and on the backs are striate dark and silvery. From near the center of the rosettes the flower spikes arise growing rapidly to some 15 inches tall. The yellow flowers are arranged in a spiral along the upper half. The individual florets are perhaps three-fourth inch in length with a somewhat fleshy perianth. In the Agaves the flower spikes are terminal, the plant dying as a consequence of flowering but in Dyskia growth of the crown is not interrupted, the spikes apparently being lateral. The Dyckias are native to Brazil where some six species are found. In the garden the plants are easily managed, thriving in a sunny, well-drained situation where in the fall they will throw their flower spikes. Propogation is effected through the many suckers as one would a century plant.

Bring your bulb flowers to Floral Home, Balboa Park, March 17th.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

ROSES NOW

By Alfred D. Robinson.

I know as well as you do that some one else should be writing this article, but I find it easier to make a personal stab at it than to goad to the point the better qualified, however, if you want real honest to goodness up-to-theminute Rose information hunt up E. Benard or F. Hieatt or Mrs. Havard or the many others who prove year after year by their exhibits that they have it and use it.

Firstly this should be an exceptionally good Rose year, because of the long cool, I dare not say cold, spell, putting the bushes into a more dormant condition than usual, provided that the lack of rainfall is supplied. It is useless to think of roses except in conjunction with moisture. All rose bushes should have water now, lots of it, enough to wet down three feet or more, and from now to the end of blooming season they must be kept moist. Fertilizer should be applied generously, but not in dry soil, and pruning done at once. There is some disagreement among us about this pruning matter, quite a number claiming we over do it. This may be the case if quantity of bloom is more desired than quality, but exhibition quality is only obtained by severe and proper pruning. We prune either for shape, in which case suit your own taste, or for quality bloom. Roses bloom on new growth, therefore prune to stimulate this. Select a few, say three or four, of well ripened canes of last season's growth, the late soft ones are no good, and cut away all else, particularly old spent growths and small ones near the base, then head these selected canes back to two to four eyes according to the size of the bush. The weaker the growth the harder the pruning, very vigorous growers are apt to run all to wood if cut too severely. In cutting, cut above an eye with a slanting cut. Benard recommends a sharp knife as bruising less than a shear, however most knives commit butchery not pruning. Climbers ordinarily are negelected in this pruning matter, they need thinning and the laterals shortened back to the main stems. If higher growth is desired all growths starting at the base must be removed. Polyantha roses and others grown for mass effect only need thinning out, they should not be pruned by just a bobbing, in all of them a certain amount of spent and superfluous wood should be removed right back to the main stem.

Don't be afraid to plant new roses, remember the stock should be extra good, take more than ordinary care in putting in the ground and do it right away. Roses need more depth of soil than most of us have naturally, therefore dig a generous hole both in width and depth about four times as big as you think necessary, get it all of thirty inches deep, three feet is better. Put in the bottom the top soil mixed with well rotted manure and a sprinkling of bone meal (you may do anything you wish with the hardpan except use it here) or if your soil is light get a load of stiff clay or adobe for the bottom filler, it will pay and it won't bake down there. Get your holes ready and soaked a week or so ahead of your planting. Remove all broken portions of roots before placing, spread roots evenly with a downward slant, this is easily done by having centre of hole rather the highest. Sift in good soil and firm all round roots, fill hole to six inches of top and soak thoroughly, after put on a mulch and let nature alone for a couple of weeks when the remainder of hole can be filled and the mulch returned. The depth to plant is an inch below the former planting. Naturally where a regular bed of roses is to be planted the whole area should be excavated and treated and it will enormously facilitate subsequent care if it be left as a sunken space, however, if in a stiff material drainage must be provided.

The location for roses is so dependent on the particular situation that only a few general does and dont's can be given. Warmth without baking, shelter from winds or drafts but not shade, preferably separated from other plantings to allow of individual treatment. A passage way is bad, so is a pocket, both induce mildew. In rose countries many of the most successful gardens are in terraces on a slope and probably many of our canyons would provide opportunities for this treatment.

The matter of varieties has been handled in this magazine quite recently. The safe and sane way of selection is to ask our local purveyors for the best for the locality in your favorite colors. San Diego lacks certain rose requirements, and this limits the choice of varieties. Generally speaking the best doers are Hybrid Teas, the highly scented kinds that you grow in less favored climes are mostly very unhappy here. A recent addition to the Floral Association Library of Capt. Thomas Book Roses for all Climates deals with varieties from the standpoint of location and is well worth consulting. However, he handles San Diego has a part of Southern California, but within its limits conditions vary enough to make it highly advisable to get advice from right here, and who should know better than those who have sold roses for years and taken the brunt of subsequent complaints.

Dates for Annual Spring Flower Show, April 25 and 26.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

BEGONIA CHAT

Worthwhile Things from Good Old Catalogues

Still the catalogues come. Mr. Vedder, our quiet Begonia enthusiast, furnishes one of Mrs. Shepherd's that contains her own euolgy to her seedling, Marjorie Daw, a cross between Rubra and Glaucophylla Scandens, which has been planted by the many thousands, and is destined to be again most popular when its requirements are better understood. It wants warmth and considerable sunshine. Here is what Mrs. Shepherd wrote in her justifiable enthusiasm. "The original 'Marjorie Daw' of Aldrich's charming story was only a beautiful dream girl, but our Marjorie Daw is a living reality, a dream come true; not a happy accident made welcome, but a creation, demanded, planned for, and developed. Her mother is a well known beauty; a brilliant brunette, almost everywhere loved and prized. Her father is a born aristocrat, exclusive, yet immensely admired by those who have the honor of his acquaintance; a handsome blonde, cultured and refined, but lacking energy. The match proved a very happy one, and when Marjorie Daw came there was great rejoicing. She grew at first with little promise of the glorious beauty she developed as she reached mature years. She was surrounded always by charming associations, and no pains were spared in her education. Private instructors were chosen with special reference to her individual development; for it was foreseen that some day she would become a celebrity. Ambitious, generous, exquisitely graceful, she has been born a leader. To see her was to admire and love her. She is tall and stately like her mother, but far more beautiful; a pure blonde type with exquisite coloring and flower-like eyes. She dresses always in shades of green, with combinations of pink, white and light read. She is a dream of beauty, admired wherever she goes. She has already visited many parts of California and the East, has journeyed to England, New Zealand, Australia, and the Sandwich Islands, and is destined to travel through all the world. Who is this lovely creature, and where is her home? Why have not reporters sought her out, and newspapers raved of her beauty? Because Marjorie Daw is only a flower, but nevertheless she is a queen; the Queen of all Begonias 'at Ventura-by-the-Sea.' "

This most attractive Begonia is very well known, but threatens to go into the discard because it is quite in a class by itself, not only for its magnificent trusses of flowers and bright light green foliage, but it is the only strong growing climber (both its parent Glaucopylla Scandens and the clinging white are comparatively small). Though in appearance very like a Rubra (its other parent) it follows the other side in habit, branching freely and trailing whenever it gets a chance. Its stems are not large and stiff enough to hold upright. For trellis work or to surround a pillar it has no equal, but it must not be tied up or trained too stiffly, all the tying to be done should be confined to just sufficient main stems to keep position but the branches must be left to droop. It should have the sunniest place in a lath house and will do well outside if sheltered from wind. Considering its parentage and its pronounced effort to trail, it probably would be at its best draped over a wall or in a rockery, and if it is to be staked it should be treated like a tomato vine to flow over a frame not too high. Glorious specimens are now only matters of record and though a quick grower it cannot justly be called hardy, its root action is small and very shallow, and whenever a branch rests on the ground it will quickly root, no doubt it would grow as a bedder, but then its lovely flowers would be lost. In spite of most earnest effort and hand fertilizing I have failed to get even one seed pod to mature on Marjorie Daw. However, I have a seedling from Odorata Alba of very scandent type which has had one pink flower. It follows our Mrs. Shepherd's acount of the youth of Marjorie, for it is a most persistent non-doer, four years old it is now a large clump of roots with a multitude of short growths sulking in a hanging basket. It has been in the ground for a season and in a pot for another, and under lath, glass and Cello-glass, and always gave promise of doing something yet never has. While there is life there is hope, and perhaps it has been waiting for a very dry year.

Glaucophylla Scandens is chiefly fixed in my mind by its comparison to the creeping arbutus, so beloved of our sentimental authors, but this particular plant, which is also associated in its literary life with snow through which it peeps, has never bloomed or smelled for me, so I have had to find a twin for G. S. of my own, and this has been Quis-

qualis Indica. The only Glaucophylla I have seen that was really happy and wonderful was on a mound in the lath house of Mrs. Fleetwood. I secured it and moved it with infinite care to a similar mound and location, but it died, slowly but persistently, and though I have had others none of them ever did anything but die. I learned that before I got it Mrs. Fleetwood's plant was much larger and handsomer, but a visitor from Los Angeles begged a slip, and bringing a suit case carried off half the original, and as a result of the rape had several very handsome hanging baskets in one of the public conservatories. Though the flowers of this Begonia are given usually as pink they have that shade quite frequent in Dahlias of late that is not pink nor red nor rose, but takes something from all, the Quiqualis is thus colored. It is supposed to be a hybrid, though of unknown parents, and is given as a native of Brazil and I am now of an opinion that it needs more heat than Point Loma furnishes. This heat question brings to my mind my late experience with Scharffiana, of which I treated a few months back, I am now sure that my suggestion then to dig this up and house it for the winter was right, as my plants rushed into the glasshouse during the slight but prolonged cool unpleasantness of this winter have grown and flourished amazingly. Not to dwell unnecessarily upon this cool episode, it may be helpful to ourselves and grateful to dwellers elsewhere, to admit that it discouraged some Begonias which are now showing it in their leaves as the sap begins to push. The worst sufferer was Odorata Alba and its seedlings and the damage was confined to the older leaves which seems strange. The experience, take it all in all, was most gratifying, as demonstrating the resistance of this family of plants, for without a single kill, thousands of little specimens of over fifty varieties stood a temperature that went as low as thirty degrees several times, staying around there practically all of Christmas night. Many of these were in bloom and did not even drop the blooms. They were under a roof of Celloglass, but so was the thermometer from which the readings were made.

Thanks to Miss Matthews I have received a copy of a Bulletin issued by the Horticultural Society of Massachusetts, about Winter Flowering Begonias, and I copy here from it under the head of **History**: "Begonia Socotrana, from which the winter-flowering varieties have been evolved, was introduced in 1860 from the Island of Socotra in the Red Sea, by Professor Isaac Bayley Balfour of Edinburgh. Mr. John Heal of Messrs. James Veitch & Sons, Chelsea, England, recognized the possibilities of this species for hybridising and to him belongs the honor of raising the first hybrids of the Winter Flowering Begonia, which are the results of crossing Begonia Socotrana with several large-flowered varieties. The first of these varieties to receive recognition from the Royal Horticultural Society was the 'John Heal' exhibited by the Messrs. Veitch in 1885. Very little was heard of them again until 1902, when the Messrs. Veitch exhibited a group of these plants and about this time listed twelve varieties in their catalogue.

"In later years the work was taken up by the Messrs. Clibran who have listed about fifty varieties in their catalogue. The flowers are large, single, double and semi-double, some over three inches in diameter, and vary in color from scarlet to light salmon pink. A pure white or yellow has not yet appeared. They are produced in late autumn when showy flowers are very desirable. The flowers are sterile which accounts for their long duration and with ordinary care a plant will last in full bloom from six to eight weeks."

I am hot on the trail of this strain of Begonias and have written to many, notably to Messrs. Clibran, and it may be of interest to know that Miss Session's Tony once worked for this firm. The first answering letter comes from Blackmore and Langdon of England and its says: "Re tuberous rooted winter-flowering begonias—this is a type evolved by Clibrans, Hale, Cehs., England, and we have grown a few but not many, having concentrated more on the tuberous summer-flowering, as you know. These winter sorts are very pretty and we would advise your communicating with above firm if you think it worth while. They are very apt to rot when dormant, we understand." I shall keep the Garden readers advised as I learn more of this fascinating stranger to our lath houses in San Diego.

EARLY CALIFORNIA TREES

Continued from February

ready given quite an extensive list in the last issue of this magazine. In trees: The Catalpa, locust, pepper, lime, sweet lime, seedling orange, guava, Spanish broom, were extensively planted. In flowers, there was always planted the poppy, sweet allysm, geranium, musk plant, Tritoma (red hot poker) hibiscus, Angels' Trumpet, Brugmansia and the beautiful vine Passiflora; I have forgotten the Spanish names for these (if I ever knew them) but an intimate knowledge of all early California plants was gleaned from my childhood friends, the sweet sisters of Notre Dame, the kind fathers at the many missions which it was my good fortune to know, and many of the people who lived in Cali-

fornia before the "Gringo came".

No flowers ever were so fragrant! "Los Floras Americanos no tienez valor por que no tienez olor. (The flowers of the Americans no tienez olor." (The flowers of the Americans have no value for they have no odor.) So said the proud old Spanish donnas, and it is a truth! Another idea, speaking of grass. In the early days the only grass that grew was in the fields. The patio or inclosure within the walls was all given over to flower beds or beaten walks, swept and kept religiously clean—sometimes asphalt was used (mixed with sand) made quite a pretentious showing. The hated Bermuda grass was first brought into California, as I remember, from Bermuda Island, by a man by the name of Keys. He also brought a lot of Ramie, used in making jute bags. His name ought to go down in the annals of time (as a pest).

In planning a California setting for the many beautiful buildings now being erected, according to the idea of Spanish or old California type, it seems incongruous, not to say ridiculous, to plant grass and flowers from other lands beside those used as types of a true Spanish or California style. So to those interested I say, "forget" the grass, and do not try to put a bit of England or Kentucky around a California home, but rather plant those vivid fragrant flowers we all love so much, as a part of our beautiful Golden State.

"When you are in Rome do as the Romans do."

Italia Mia Nursery

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Prop.

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SEED, All Varieties, send for list.

TUBERS, Single, Double, Hanging Basket or Lloydii, Martiana.

PLANTS (now ready)
Bedders, Flame of Love (new)
Seashell (white, orange, pink),
Helen Boginger (compact white),
Luminosa (pink).
Jessie
Templini
Gilsoni (double pink)
Verschafelti
Nitida

FERNS (large specimens)
Lonchitis Pubescens
Asplenium Bulbifarum

Come and select for yourself between ten and four.

Rosecroft Begonia Gardens

POINT LOMA, CALIF.

Alfred D. Robinson, Prop.

GARDEN GLIMPSES

Continued from page 2

improved hillside for some time. More power to him, and would that many others would do likewise. But his kind are few, indeed, for most people would never think of planting a tree or doing any beautifying on land which they did not own, lock, stock and barrel.

It was late evening and a soft rain was starting to fall so that I had to cut short my garden visit and hasten to my waiting machine. As I went I was thankful for owners of gardens who give friendly invitations to come and visit their gardens, and who do not bar us out. David Grayson says that after all "when we think we are barring other people out we are only barring ourselves in."

Being able to be alone without feeling lonely is one of the greatest arts of life.

"It is certain that our grasp of life is in direct proportion to the variety and warmth of the ways in which we lay hold of it."

"Let us grasp each little moment of happines and live it to the full."

"A garden gives us time to look up and down instead of always having to strain and look forward toward success."

"There are three kinds of gardening—the first being the simple cultivation of the soil and flowers, the second being the gardening of my own soul and the third being the gardening with the tools of loving interest of the people about me."

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Con'd from Pge. 5

month to more than wet the surface of the ground, the atmosphere for sometime past has been much more favorable to planting and sowing in the flower garden, and many young plants that simply drooped and died under the cold dry air and hot sun of a week or two ago, can now be set out with every chance of their growing. Among these are Carnations, Columbine, Foxglove, Canterbury Bells, Pansies, Penstemon, Shasta Daisies, Stocks, Verbena, African Daisies, Snapdragons, Delphiniums, Petunias, etc.

Dahlia seed can now go in, plant in boxes and transplant later on when plants are strong. The seedling Dahlia is becoming a greater favorite every year, there have been so many wonderful flowers produced from seed, of which there is a well selected stock on the market. It is a good plan to prepare your ground now for Dahlia tubers, which go in in April and May. Spade deeply after a good irrigation and liberal application of well rotted manure, leaving surface in the rough, to be worked down before planting.

Bring your bulb flowers to Floral Home, Balboa Park, March 17th.

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

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If you have any cannas they should be subdivided and replanted at once. Use a liberal mulch of well rotted manure and plenty of water during the growing season and you will have a wonderful show of blooms for many months. Finish putting out your lily bulbs, such as Rubrum, Auratum and Tigrinum, planting in rich soil about 8 inches deep and 18 inches apart.

It is also getting time for the Tuberous Rooted Begonia bulbs; these require lath house conditions and plenty of leaf mold, being barely covered when planted. When properly taken care of you are amply rewarded by the wonderful blooms, both single and double, in crimsons, pinks, bronze, orange, etc.

The planting of the seeds for many summer blooming annuals is now timely. Asters can be sown now and at intervals of every three weeks or a month for the next three months. The American Beauty and Crego types are two of the best, the former being the favorite with florists on account of extra long stem and incurved petals, which make it easier to pack. These should be sown in sunny locations in rich soil worked down to a fine seed bed. The plants can be raised in seed boxes or seed bed. After plants have developed 3 or 4 leaves they should be pricked off into other boxes or beds 2 or 3 inches apart each way, and when they have grown to strong plants, set out where they are to bloom.

This general treatment can be used for all the hardy annuals, including the following: Calliopsis, Clarkias, Godetia, annual Hollyhocks, Gypsophilla Elegans, Larkspur, the double stock flowered are very fine, Lupins, Mignonette, African and French Marigolds, Nemesia Strumosa Suttoni, coming in a wonderful range of color and making a very pretty bedding plant. Phlox Drummondi and Salpiglossis, two of our most beautiful garden annuals will do better if sown where they are to grow, and Zinnias, which may be sown from now until midsummer. There is no more popular flower than the Zinnia, the Dahlia flowered type being especially good. They should be sown in a warm location.

Dates for Annual Spring Flower Show, April 25 and 26.

Bulb Show. March 17th, Floral Home, Balboa Park.

GLAD TIDINGS

That it isn't too late yet to send a collection of Glad. Bulbs to your friends in the north, east or wherever they may be. I pack them frost proof and pay charges.

Have you planted your February Glad. Bulbs yet?
Are you ready to put your March Glad. Bulbs in?

Though the nights are cold the Glad. Bulbs make good strong root systems down there in the dark and when warmer nights come the top growth springs up so fast that there is a bloom almost before you realize it.

If you haven't yet received one of my catalogues, a postal will bring one. Dahlia as well as Glad. prices and descriptions are given and it will be soon time to get your Dahlias in, so begin making your preparations.

Remember with each order of bulbs or roots I furnish complete planting directions.

Ralph F. Cushman

GROWER OF

EARLY MATURED SUN-CURED GLADIOLI AND DAHLIAS.

BOX 5-A *Point Loma, California*

PRIZES OFFERED FOR DAHLIAS

Mrs. Charles H. Stout, a director of the American Dahlia Society, and the originator of many well known Dahlias, has offered her book, "Amateurs' Book of the Dahlia" ,as a trophy for the best collection of Dahlias in the Novice Class for the Fall Flower Show. Mrs. Stout's book is the leading authority on the Dahlia, and is the only book on that subject in our local Public Library. Many of our members have read Mrs. Stout's book with great interest and have found both inspiration and the much sought for practical advice in the study of this book. It is hoped that a copy of Mrs. Stout's book will soon be found in the library of our Association.

Mr. J. J. Broomall, of Eagle Rock, California, who states that he became a commercial grower because he likes the flower, is always ready to encourage the amateur, and the latter will find Mr. Broomall's Dahlia Guide of great assistance in the many problems that confront the amateur gardener. Mr. Broomall in a recent communication to the Dahlia chairman, offers a ten dollar tuber order to the one who exhibits the largest Siskiyou or Ambassador at our next show. In the large Dahlia class these two Dahlias are in a class by themselves. Thus far five of our members have accepted the challenge and several other possibly may decide to enter, and it is quite likely that this class will prove one of the most interesting features of the Fall Show, not alone to those who compete, but to the public in general, who attend. It may be of interest to add that Mr. Broomall originated the well known varieties Golden West, Helen Durnbaugh, Snowdrift, Rosa Nell and many other varieties common to our gardens.

Mrs. Elizabeth W. Lymberry, better known as Bessie Boston, of San Mateo, California, is second to no one as an originator of what are known as great Dahlias. No important Dahlia show is held in this country that does not feature Bessie Boston's Dahlias among the winning classes, and a study of the catalogue of any commercial grower will show that he grows a great many of Bessie Boston's originations. This is true of our local growers. Mrs. Lymberry has very kindly offered our Association ten dollars of her tubers for the best basket composed of one or more Bessie Boston's varieties. This is an offer that can be taken advantage of by a great many of our exhibitors and by many who have Dahlia gardens but as yet have not shown at our shows.

These three offers of prizes for our Fall Show come from persons of real importance in the Dahlia world and is a recognition of our Association that should be appreciated by all our members. Any of us who have longed for a ten dollar Dahlia bulb, now has the opportunity of acquiring one simply by growing and exhibiting a few Dahlias a little better than the other fellow. These offers of bulbs are made in the Open to All Class; in other words it is a free for all.

The novice who wins Mrs. Stout's autographed book will certainly have a prize that any Dahlia grower wil be proud to possess.

A $275 DAHLIA PRIZE

Dahlia growers are taking great interest in the Heller prize, which is to be competed for this year. This award, amounting to $275, is the interest from a bequest of $5,000 which was left to the University of California by Samuel W. Heller in memory of his father. Each year the interest from this fund is to awarded to a different grower. The 1925 award is for the Dahlia showing "pre-eminent merit." The rules governing the award are as follows:

A single cash prize of $275 will be awarded to the Dahlia that shows pre-eminent value. Flowers exhibited must have been grown in the garden of the exhibitor. Twenty-five blooms shall constitute an exhibit. Each exhibitor shall be limited to one entry. New varieties originating in California shall receive 10 per cent additional score; those originating in other parts of the United States, five per cent additional score. A new variety is one that has been grown three years or more but never offered for sale. The scale of points selected by the Dahlia Society of California shall be used in judging the exhibits. The prize will be awarded at the 1925 show of the Dahlia Society of California.

BILBERGIAS

Of this family of some forty plants, San Diego is only on real intimate terms with one, Nutans, and it is now in bloom. It is in growth somewhat similar to a Hemoracallis, its leaves are long about an inch or less wide and from one to two feet or more in length, springing from a low crown. The bloom stem and all except the flowerets is bright pink and the drooping flowerets are green and blue banded, with yellow stamens, a very striking growth that keeps a long time when cut. Nutans can be grown like an orchid on a piece of bark or similar substance, but it does well in the ground in half shade and does not mind a pot. Material for potting should be coarse and but little water should be given except at the blooming period. This does not mean to let it dry up.

Nutans comes from Brazil as do many of the other Bilbergias and yet it is blooming wonderfully in February out of doors after a peculiarily cool winter.

Bulb Show. March 17th, Floral Home, Balboa Park.

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